

DATE: November, 2003

TO: Authorized Representative/Food Service Director

FROM: Dean Flaws, Food Distribution Consultant

SUBJECT: 4D (January) Release

PLEASE ROUTE TO FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR

1. **4D (January) Commodity Order Form** has been enclosed in this mailing in **LIMITED QUANTITY ONLY**. Only those schools who did not use the "Internet" during the last orders (4C) were mailed paper copies. The rest of the schools are hereby notified that your 4D (January) orders are up on the web and ready for you to place your orders. If you have any "Internet Ordering" problems contact Ellen Miller at 515-281-4542.
2. Be sure to access the web @ www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/fn/ to get the November issue of the "Lunchline." It has some good question and answers on irradiated ground beef.
3. The regs say the following regarding the use of donated foods in home economics courses:
"School food authorities receiving donated foods under this part may use such foods for the purpose of training students in home economics, including college students if the same facilities and instructors are used for training both high school and college students in home economics courses. Home economics includes classes in general home economics, food purchases, nutrition, food preparation, cooking, child care and health."
The State Agencies position would be consistent with the federal policy, "may". There is no requirement on the part of School Food Authorities to share donated foods with home economics. In addition if they choose to share, they do not need to share all of the various types of products made available and may place limitations on the quantity. They may also charge the home economics program the cost the SFA had to pay to receive the product, essentially shipping, handling, and storage. Our interpretation of the regs would be that the first priority for the product would be the school meal program. If the product can be shared without negative or significant negative impact to the school meal program, then it would seem likely the SFA would be willing to share to support the instructional home economics program for students. Again, however even if there is no negative impact, they would not be required by USDA or DE to share.
4. We are planning another ICN workshop over "Commodity Ordering over the Internet" in January. Details at a later date.

Sincerely,

Dean Flaws, Commodities Consultant